

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
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10. (Cancelled)
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12. (Cancelled)
13. (Cancelled)
14. (Cancelled)
15. (Cancelled)
16. (Cancelled)
17. (Previously Presented)

A breast scanning device comprising:

an endless loop structure comprising a breast support surface configured to support a substantially entire portion of a breast that is subject to scanning, wherein the breast support surface is configured to move along an endless loop during scanning such that a portion of the breast support surface turns upside down along the endless loop while at the same time the substantially entire portion of the breast is supported by one or more other portions of the breast support surface;

an ultrasonic probe fixed to the endless loop structure and movable along with the breast support surface; and

a compressor comprising a compressor surface opposing the breast support surface and configured to move the compressor surface toward the breast support surface to press the breast that is placed over the breast support surface.

18. (Previously Presented) The device of Claim 17, wherein the ultrasonic probe is movable in a scanning direction of the breast scanning device.

19. (Previously Presented) The device of Claim 18, wherein the ultrasonic probe is elongated and is fixed to the endless loop structure to extend in a direction generally perpendicular to the scanning direction.

20. (Previously Presented) The device of Claim 17, wherein the endless loop comprises a linear portion and two curved portions, each of which is connected at an end of the linear portion.

21. (Previously Presented) The device of Claim 20, wherein the breast support surface comprises a substantially planar portion.

22. (Previously Presented) The device of Claim 21, further comprising a roller configured to rotate and cause to move the endless loop structure.

23. (Previously Presented) The device of Claim 22, further comprising a support configured to support a portion of the endless loop structure so as to make at least part of the breast support surface substantially planar.

24. (Previously Presented) The device of Claim 23, wherein the support is not movable.

25. (Previously Presented) The device of Claim 17, wherein the endless loop structure comprises a belt or a caterpillar track.

26. (Previously Presented) A method of scanning a breast, the method of comprising:

providing the breast scanning device of Claim 17;

placing a breast of a person between the breast support surface and the compressor surface;

moving the endless loop structure along the endless loop, thereby moving the ultrasonic probe in a scanning direction; and

ultrasonically scanning the breast using the ultrasonic probe while moving the ultrasonic probe in the scanning direction.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 26 , wherein the endless loop comprises a linear portion and two curved portions, each of which is connected at an end of the linear portion.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 26 , wherein the scanning direction is substantially parallel to the linear portion.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 26 , wherein a gel pad is located between the breast and the breast support surface.

30. (Previously Presented) The device of Claim 17, wherein consecutive portions of the breast support surface are configured to sequentially support the breast as the breast support surface moves along the endless loop.